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# SCIENCE

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## THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS AT KEW

THE recent establishment of the New York Botanical Garden, following so closely the development of the Missouri Botanical Garden, through the private munificence of Henry Shaw, and the evident tendency in American cities to establish each its own garden as a means of public pleasure and education, leads one to turn to the Old World, where such institutions are no longer a novelty. There is certain to be in the near future in America an awakening of interest in this feature of popular education, and we predict that the next quarter of a century will see them organized as a part of the park system of every city of importance and as a part of the equipment of every university that merits the name and rank.

Passing by the botanical gardens of the Italian cities, some of which are the oldest establishments of the kind in the world, dating back to the fifteenth century, and the less considerable establishments at Berlin and Paris, it is natural to turn to the largest and in many respects the most important of them all, because of its wide reaching influence, coextensive with British colonization itself. Of English botanical gardens those at Oxford and Cambridge, while smaller than Kew, are much older, and yet their influence largely pertains to the university towns and the universities that foster them, while Kew Garden, far from being local or simply national, is in-